Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A locating system for determining the location of an object ~~in an area comprising a plurality of sub-areas~~, said system comprising:

at least one data carrier associated with the object and located in a location defined by an absolute position; and

an information unit, which is remote from the at least one data carrier, for identifying a current ~~sub-area~~ area in which the data carrier is located based on the absolute position, determining ~~sub-area~~ boundaries corresponding to the ~~identified sub-area~~ current area, transmitting the ~~sub-area~~ boundaries to the at least one data carrier, and identifying a new ~~sub-area~~ area in which the data carrier is located when the data carrier leaves the current ~~sub-area~~ area; wherein

said at least one data carrier transmits its position to the information unit only in case of initialization and in case of movement of the at least one data carrier from the current ~~sub-area~~ area, and

a third party interrogates the information unit for the position of the at least one data carrier.

2. (currently amended) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the at least one data carrier has a memory for storing the ~~sub-area~~ boundaries and absolute position data, and a

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comparator for comparing the position data with the area information when the boundaries ~~corresponding to the sub-area~~ are received by the at least one data carrier.

3. (currently amended) A method of locating an object provided with a data carrier ~~located in an area comprising a plurality of sub-areas~~, the method comprising:

receiving position data by the data carrier from a position-determining system;

transmitting position data by the data carrier to an information unit;

identifying, in the information unit, a current ~~sub-area~~ area in which the data carrier is located based on the position data;

determining, in the information unit, ~~sub-area~~ boundaries corresponding to the ~~identified~~ current sub-area;

transmitting the ~~sub-area~~ boundaries to the data carrier;

comparing a position of the data carrier with the ~~sub-area~~ boundaries;

transmitting new position data to the information unit only in case of initialization and in case of a negative result of the comparison of the ~~sub-area~~ boundaries ~~transmitted by the information unit~~ with the position of the data carrier;

identifying, in the information unit, a new ~~sub-area~~ area in which the data carrier is located when the data carrier leaves the current ~~sub-area~~ area; and

interrogating the information unit from a third party for the position of the data carrier.

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4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the current ~~sub-area~~ area in which the data carrier is located is stored in the information unit.

5. (currently amended) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of possible ~~sub-areas~~ areas are stored in the information unit as electronic maps.

6. (currently amended) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ~~sub-area~~ boundaries are transmitted in the form of data of a polygon.

7. (currently amended) The locating system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the information unit provides the third party with the position data of ~~the~~ a respective ~~sub-area~~ area.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the plurality of possible ~~sub-areas~~ areas are stored in the information unit as electronic maps.

9. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the ~~sub-area~~ boundaries are transmitted in the form of data of a polygon.

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